UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/CONF.189/PC.3/2
12 July 2001

Original: ENGLISH

WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE

Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 30 July-10 August 2001
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF REPORTS, STUDIES AND OTHER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND THE WORLD CONFERENCE

Contribution of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to the preparatory process of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 2000/14 of 17 April 2000, the Commission on Human Rights invited United Nations bodies and mechanisms dealing with the question of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to participate actively in the preparatory process of the World Conference (para. 66). The General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session also requested human rights mechanisms to assist the Preparatory Committee and to undertake reviews and submit recommendations concerning the World Conference and the participation therefor to the Preparatory Committee, through the Secretary-General, and to participate actively in the Conference (resolution 54/154, para. 37).

GE.01-14610 (E) 180701

2. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights submitted its initial contribution to the preparatory process for the World Conference in the form of the Committee's General Comments Nos. 11 and 13 on the right to education, including primary education (articles 13 and 14 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights). The introductory statement by the Committee is contained in document A/CONF.189/PC.1/14 (29 February 2000).

3. In its contribution to the second session of the Preparatory Committee (A/CONF.189/PC.2/16, 20 March 2001), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights indicated that it would submit its recommendations to the World Conference after their adoption during the Committee's twenty-fifth session, to be held from 23 April to 11 May 2001.

4. Accordingly, these recommendations, constituting amendments to the draft declaration and programme of action of the World Conference, which were adopted on 10 May 2001, are contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

1. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has the honour to present the following recommendations to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance for inclusion in the Declaration and Programme of Action.

2. Regarding the section on education, the Committee recommends the inclusion of the following wording in the appropriate place:

> "In this regard, it is important to recognize the right to education enshrined in article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in particular that education should be directed to the full development of the human personality and the sense of its dignity and strengthen respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The World Conference urges States to reinforce the anti-discrimination component of the school curricula and to improve educational materials on human rights, in order to shape attitudes and behavioural patterns based on the principles of non-discrimination, mutual respect and tolerance."

3. Regarding the section on racism and poverty, the Committee suggests the insertion of the following paragraph:

> "The World Conference recognizes that conditions of poverty resulting in deprivation of an adequate standard of living, including the rights to food, housing, health and education, constitute a denial of human rights and serve to fuel racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance."